



ADVERTISEMENTS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE Undermentioned INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 25th and 26th instant respectively:—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents, CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LTD. General Manager, HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

N. J. EDE, Secretary, UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

B. C. T. GRAY, Acting Agent, NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE CO., LTD.

W. H. RAY, Secretary, CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LTD.

SHewan & CO., Agents, YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

GEORGE L. TOLVIN, Acting Secretary, CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

W. R. MACBEAN, Manager, THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1790]

MACAO. THE MACAO.

BOA VISTA HOTEL.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

FRESH AIR. FRESH FISH.

Special attention paid to PICNIC PARTIES.

Apply early! Apply early!

FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATION.

EXCELLENT TABLE.

For terms, &c., apply to

THE MANAGER.

Telegraphic Address:—"BOAVISTA," Macao.

Macao, 19th December, 1895. [1791]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, SAMARANG AND

SOURABAYA.

THE Steamship

"HANTUNG,"

Captain Farnham, will be despatched

TO-MORROW, the 20th instant, at 10 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1792]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR PORT D'RWYN, QUEENSLAND PORTS, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

THE Steamship

"TSINAN,"

Geo. Ramsey, Commander, will be despatched

on SATURDAY, the 21st instant, at Noon.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the

Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer.

The First-class Cabin is situated forward of the

Engine.

A Refreshing Chamber ensures the

Supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire

voyage.

A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the

Vessel is fitted throughout with Electric Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1793]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Steamship

"CHIHLI,"

Captain Anderson, will be despatched on

SATURDAY, the 21st instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1794]

DOUGLAS' STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"NAMOA,"

Captain Hall, will be despatched for the above

Ports on SUNDAY, the 22nd instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., General Managers,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1795]

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

FOR SHANGHAI AND NAGASAKI.

THE Company's Steamship

"YAMASHIRO MARU,"

Captain J. B. Macmillan, will be despatched as

above on SUNDAY, the 22nd instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1792]

"GLENFARG,"

Captain Selby, will be despatched as above on

or about FRIDAY, the 17th January.

This Steamer has Superior Accommodation for Passengers, and carries Doctor and Stewards.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents,

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895. [1793]

BROWN, JONES & CO.

DEALERS IN

ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MARBLE AND

HONGKONG GRANITE CEMETERY

MEMORIALS.

LETTERS CUT AND FILLED WITH IMPERFECT LEAD CEMENT.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUCKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED, VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

EMONADE.

GINGER ALE.

SARASPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUCKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufacture. Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MEETINGS and other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager, Hongkong, 3rd May, 1895. [1650]

THE

HONGKONG DISPENSARY

has just received FRESH SUPPLIES of

WHOLESALE CONFECTIONERY

AND

DELICIOUS SWEETS,

of the HIGHEST QUALITY and PURITY.

These include—

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CREAMES

PATE D'ABRICOT, JORDAN ALMONDS

CARAMELS, PRALINES.

DESSERT CHOCOLATE,

NOUGAT, FRUIT JELLIES,

CRYSTALLISED FRUITS,

METZ FRUITS,

ASSORTED TOFFEES,

MIXED BONBONS,

FRY'S CHOCOLATES,

TANGERINE BISCUITS,

ORANGE PASTE, ORANGE ROLLS,

&c., &c., &c.

Together with the Latest Novelties in

FANCY BOXES,

which are very suitable as Seasonable Presents

for LADIES and YOUNG PEOPLE.

FRENCH

CONFECTIONERY and CONSERVES,

In Large Assortment,

from the BEST PARISIAN HOUSES.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD., THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 30th November, 1895. [1794]

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1895.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Really this is too bad! Uncle JONATHAN on the war-path and anxious to measure swords with poor old, inoffensive, ultimatum-manufacturing, and total abstaining Venezuela.

Why, goodness gracious, what next shall we hear of? And all because the British Government is alleged to have refused to submit a frontier dispute with a tiny republic named Venezuela, down Central America, way, to arbitration. Why the Government of the United States should worry themselves about Venezuelan affairs we are at loss to conceive, unless it be that they believe the picking of a quarrel with Venezuela is merely the first move in a very big game in which John Bull is thought to hold the majority of the trump cards.

Reuter tells us that President Cleveland, in his Message to Congress, stated that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the

part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela. The President concluded by saying that he keenly realized the gravity of the possible consequences of this proposal. The Message, it is added, was heartily applauded by the members of Congress.

The fact of the President of the United States referring in a Message of this kind to "the gravity of the possible consequences of his proposal" shows that the American Government has endeavoured to settle the matter amicably with Lord Salisbury and failed, and that therefore, the United States Government having somehow arrived at the conclusion that Venezuela will be unfairly dealt with, and that it is their business to protect her, the gauntlet has been thrown down, and for the first time since the great Civil War we now find our cousins ready and, apparently, anxious to go to war with the "tarnation Britshers."

The whole thing may end in a smoke though, for it is hardly conceivable that for the sake of a small slice of Venezuela we should risk a "brush" with our neighbours, who, for political reasons only, may be making a butt of dear old England. It is conceivable that this bluster may be an electioneering dodge, and all this "war talk" may have its genesis and exodus in the "tall talk" of which our cousins are so fond about election time. We are bound to admit, however, that the fact of Congress loudly applauding the Presidential fireworks indicates, probably, that the Yanks mean business this time. A day or two hence we should be sufficiently informed of developments to be able to forecast the events of the near future, with a good deal more accuracy than is at present possible.

What has Mr. JOHN WORRELL CARRINGTON, C.M.G., done to merit the Chief Judgeship of Hongkong? Why doesn't he stop in British Guiana and try to settle the boundary difficulty with Venezuela and our bellicose American cousins? What has he done for the powers that be at home to cause them to create him a real, live Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George? Why was not Mr. ALFRED GASCOIGNE, Esq., or Mr. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney General) appointed to succeed Sir F. F. Clarke? These are question which ran through our weary brain when we first glanced over Reuter's message on this subject, which will be found in another column. Is this a case of "merit before seniority"? Or is it otherwise?

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S MESSAGES.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND ON THE WAR-PATH.

London, December 17th, President Cleveland in his Message to Congress says that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela.

President Cleveland in his Message to Congress says that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela.

President Cleveland in his Message to Congress says that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela.

President Cleveland in his Message to Congress says that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela.

President Cleveland in his Message to Congress says that in view of Great Britain's refusal to accept arbitration in regard to the Venezuelan frontier, he recommends Congress to appoint a Commission to determine the true frontier. It would then be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to take territory which that Commission had adjudged as belonging to Venezuela.

# THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1895.

## THE "THALES" INCIDENT.

YOKOHAMA, December 18th.  
The facts of the *Thales* incident, if not already familiar to our readers, will be sufficiently explained by the documents printed below, both of which appeared in the Japanese language in the *Official Gazette* of the 9th instant. The occurrence had evoked criticism in the columns of English local journals in the East, and there had been an assumption on the part of the critics that the British Government were neglecting their duty in not exacting full explanation, apology, and pecuniary reparation from Japan; but that Japan was playing fast and loose with Great Britain's just demands. Neither hypothesis being in the least degree tenable, we did not concern ourselves to offer any comment. The facts and the methods adopted in dealing with them were certain to be known to the public before long, when, says the *Japan Mail*, from which this report is taken, it would be at once seen that the two Powers concerned had acted, the one with all expedition and plainness, the other with a full sense of responsibility and justice. In laying the documents before our readers, it is only necessary to call attention to the following dates:—The incident occurred on the high seas between Amoy and Taiwan on the 21st of October; an explanation was sought from the Japanese Government by Her Britannic Majesty's Representative in Tokio on October the 24th; on November the 6th the Japanese Government replied, acknowledging in the frankest terms that "the acts committed by the Commander of the *Yasayama Kan* were wholly without warrant, in contemplation of International Law;" "regretting exceedingly that the occurrence should have taken place," and declaring their readiness "to fully compensate the *Thales* for the wrong suffered." If all international complications could be settled with a similar display of promptness, courtesy, and justice on both sides, the world would be happier. The following are the documents:—

### NOTE VERBALE.

The British steamer *Thales*, having left Taiwan on the 20th of October with eight hundred passengers, mostly women and children, was stopped 15 miles from Amoy, by the Japanese cruiser *Yasayama*, before daybreak on the following morning, and a search crew was placed on board by the Commander of the cruiser. The Commander wished to take out seven passengers, against which the Master protested. The Commander of the cruiser then insisted on placing two officers on board, and after a detention of ten or twelve hours, allowed her to proceed to Amoy on condition of holding the men he required at the disposal of the Japanese Consular authority for that port. Her Britannic Majesty's Consul of course demanded that the men claimed by the Commander of the Japanese cruiser should be delivered to him, and that having been done, set them at liberty. Her Britannic Majesty's Minister has now received instructions from his Government to inquire what explanation the Japanese Government have to offer respecting the stopping of a British ship on the high seas by a Japanese war-ship, and her search and detention.

Tokyo, October 24th, 1895.

### NOTE VERBALE.

The Imperial Government have not failed to take into very serious consideration the Note Verbales which His Excellency H. B. M.'s Minister did them the honor of presenting to them on the 24th ultimo, in reference to the search and detention of the British steamer *Thales* by the Japanese man-of-war *Yasayama*.

Full reports of the attending circumstances of the case are still wanting, but sufficient is known to enable the Imperial Government to determine that the incident occurred on the high seas, and that the *Thales* was at the time on a voyage from Taiwan to Amoy, China.

From the meager information at hand, the Imperial Government are led to believe that the acts complained of were the result of a misapprehension of instructions, but setting aside once for all any discussion of incidental points, the Imperial Government hasten to acknowledge that the acts were, in contemplation of International Law, wholly without warrant. They regret, exceedingly that the occurrence should have taken place, and are prepared to fully compensate the *Thales* for the wrong suffered.

The Instructions which the Imperial Government are issuing to their vessels-of-war will make a repetition of the incident impossible, and while expressing their warm appreciation of the considerate manner in which the event was brought to their attention, the Imperial Government venture to hope that the explanation and reparation which they offer will prove satisfactory to H. B. M.'s Government.

The Guatimbo, November 6th, 1895.

## CALCUTTA OPIUM SALES FOR 1895.

Pata.		
Dates—	Crop.	Total
On or about.		
1894-95 .....	1895-96 .....	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	
4th .....	1,625	
5th .....	1,625	
6th .....	1,625	
7th .....	1,625	
8th .....	1,625	
9th .....	1,625	
10th .....	1,625	
11th .....	1,625	
12th .....	1,625	
13th .....	1,625	
14th .....	1,625	
15th .....	1,625	
16th .....	1,625	
17th .....	1,625	
18th .....	1,625	
19th .....	1,625	
20th .....	1,625	
21st .....	1,625	
22nd .....	1,625	
23rd .....	1,625	
24th .....	1,625	
25th .....	1,625	
26th .....	1,625	
27th .....	1,625	
28th .....	1,625	
29th .....	1,625	
30th .....	1,625	
31st .....	1,625	
1st .....	1,625	
2nd .....	1,625	
3rd .....	1,625	

